



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **053-2012**

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LETTER TO COMMISSION

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Mattie Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: February 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Beach Erosion Control & Hurricane Protection Project - Beach Renourishment 2012

The purpose of this LTC is to provide an update to the Mayor and City Commission on the beach renourishment activities and planned visit by Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 2011 Beach Erosion Control & Hurricane Protection Project, Dade County Renourishment, Contract E (the Project) is sponsored by Miami-Dade County, funded with a Federal appropriation in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) work program, and managed by USACE. The County is responsible for providing local coordination of beach nourishment activities conducted by the USACE, including providing the non-Federal funds needed to implement the Project.

The City has been monitoring this project since 2010 when it was anticipated that the Project construction would occur during the 2011 summer months. Unfortunately, the permitting process with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection delayed the contract award date. The contract was finally awarded to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock LLC (GLDD) in the amount of \$15,794,200 on September 30, 2011. If the contract had not been awarded by the end of FY2010/11, the Federal funds would have been forfeited and re-appropriated to another Federal program. At the City Administration's request, the USACE delayed issuing the Notice to Proceed (NTP) to GLDD as much as possible, to avoid impacting special events scheduled in December and January. However, it is the USACE policy to issue the NTP no later than 30 to 60 calendar days after the contract award date. On November 16, 2011, the USACE issued GLDD the NTP which stipulates that work begin within 60 days and is completed within 204 calendar days. Initially, the project was scheduled to start in mid- to late January.

In the months since the contract was awarded and the NTP was issued, the City's Public Works Department has worked closely with Miami-Dade County and USACE to postpone the commencement of construction until after the highest point in the City's tourist season. GLDD agreed to conduct the project in two phases to avoid impacts to major special events, South Beach hotels and beach-goers during the peak of the South Florida tourism season.

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

The scope of the Project consists of placing sand on three areas of Miami Beach using two separate sources of material (Attachment A). The first phase from 63<sup>rd</sup> Street to 69<sup>th</sup> Street, will utilize the last available offshore borrow site in Miami-Dade County located approximately 11 nautical miles south-south west of the project area. A dredge will remove sand from the offshore borrow site and transport it to North Beach. The dredge located

offshore will pump an estimated 250,000 cubic yards of sand to a diverter that will be located around 69<sup>th</sup> Street which will direct sand north and south to be distributed and graded to the approved slope.

GLDD has begun to mobilize to start the first phase of the project. During the week of February 20 GLDD and the County will be coordinating the placement of the submarine line from the dredge to the beach in the approved pipeline corridor. The County will be closely monitoring this activity to ensure environmental impacts to the hard-bottom reef are minimized. The dredging operations are scheduled to begin on February 29. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen plans to attend the commencement of the dredging operations on February 29. Administration will provide a further update when a date and location has been finalized. It is anticipated that this phase of the project will last approximately 30 to 45 days, and will be completed by April 2012.

The second phase will utilize a sand back-passing method to bring approximately 107,000 cubic yards (cy) sand from an accreted portion of the beach between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Street to the highly eroded areas in the vicinity of 27<sup>th</sup> Street (50,000 cy) and 44<sup>th</sup> Street (57,000 cy). The work zone will be limited to 500 feet at a time between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Trucks will be used inside this area to move sand to a stationary hopper/pump that will stand approximately 27 feet. All work will be completed within this 500 foot work zone and will move with each increment as to minimize range of the project and avoid additional machinery on the beach. The sand will be pumped through an underground pipeline and distributed in approximately 1,000-foot lengths at the two receiving areas. This phase of the project will begin in May 2012 with completion scheduled for November 2012. The City, County and USACE will continue to coordinate with the Ocean Drive Association, North Ocean Drive Area Homeowners Association, and Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association before and after beach sand back-passing operations start.

The contractor will have a safety officer onsite and the County and the USACE will both have a full-time construction inspectors onsite for the duration of this project to ensure that safety requirements are being met. In addition, Miami Dade County will be conducting environmental and habitat monitoring to minimize potential damage to the benthic habitat, sea-turtles, and other marine wildlife.

As the sponsor of the Project, Miami-Dade County is responsible for coordinating and conducting community outreach. However, the City will work closely with the County and USACE to inform affected parties and ensure that accurate information regarding the project is available for businesses, residents, and visitors.

### **CONCLUSION**

Administration will continue to work closely with the County and USACE to eliminate or minimize the Project's impacts and will continue to provide the Mayor and City Commission with further updates as the Projects milestones are accomplished.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Attachments:

A: Beach Renourishment Project Boundaries

JMG/DRB/FHB/RWS/ESW

# Beach Renourishment Project Boundaries

